

## PRESS RELEASE

### ESMA launches new strategy and publishes 2014 annual report

The European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) has published today its [strategy for 2016-2020](#). As ESMA is moving from its formative years to the next phase, a strategic review was conducted to set the new direction and priorities of ESMA within this changing environment. This strategic review also took into account various external evaluations.

In addition, ESMA published today its [annual report for 2014](#), reporting on the achievements of its third year in existence.

Under its new strategy, ESMA's focus will now shift from rulemaking towards the implementation of rules and ensuring the convergence of supervisory practices. ESMA also expects that new regulatory work may follow from current initiatives such as the Capital Markets Union. In order to streamline its activities, ESMA's new strategy focuses on three key objectives:

1. **Investor protection:** to have the needs of financial consumers better served and to reinforce their rights while acknowledging their responsibilities;
2. **Orderly markets:** to promote the integrity, transparency, efficiency, and well-functioning of the EU's financial markets and robust market infrastructures; and
3. **Financial stability:** to strengthen the financial system in order to withstand shocks.

#### Steven Maijoor, ESMA Chair, stated:

“As the bulk of post-crisis rulemaking is now lying behind us, it is natural that the focus of ESMA's works will change too. In the coming years, ESMA's work will be a lot more about implementing rules and about convergence of supervisory practices. Ensuring that EU rules are implemented in a harmonised manner is the logical next step towards achieving a truly single market for financial services that serves investors, market participants and the economy at large.”

ESMA's three objectives will be achieved through four activities, which ESMA will focus on in the coming years:

- Assessing risks to investors and financial stability:

ESMA will increase its resources to strengthen its capabilities to identify and assess risks to investors, and financial stability in the EU.

- Promoting supervisory convergence:

ESMA will commit more resources to promote supervisory convergence and target a number of specific areas where convergence is to be promoted. To achieve convergence, a broad range of instruments will be used.

- Direct supervision of specific financial entities:

ESMA will continue to strengthen its role as a direct supervisor, whilst intensifying its risk-based approach in order to achieve lasting impact. Overall, the enforcement process is to become more effective and efficient.

- Completing a single rulebook for EU financial markets:

Given ESMA's shift in focus, it will decrease its resources committed to completing the single rulebook compared to its first years of existence.

The new ESMA strategy launched today will also be accompanied by some organisational changes such as merging of all supervisory activities in one Department and bringing together most of ESMA's data and risk analysis capacity, as well as streamlining its cooperation and stakeholder functions.



## Notes for editors

1. ESMA is an independent EU Authority that was established on 1 January 2011 and works closely with the other European Supervisory Authorities responsible for banking (EBA), and insurance and occupational pensions (EIOPA), and the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB).
2. ESMA's mission is to enhance the protection of investors and promote stable and well-functioning financial markets in the European Union (EU). As an independent institution, ESMA achieves this aim by building a single rule book for EU financial markets and ensuring its consistent application across the EU. ESMA contributes to the regulation of financial services firms with a pan-European reach, either through direct supervision or through the active co-ordination of national supervisory activity.

Further information:

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